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Development (1922) Department.

Miscellaneous SERIES.

G.O. No. 933

DATED 12.7.22.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture – from Head Quarters & the Dy and Asst. Dirs. of Agriculture – transfer to Hagun – exhibition at Agrl. farms – purposes recorded.

Sectt. II-99—602—21-11-21.

1922

Development DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. *Name of Paper*— New India

2. *Published at*— Madras

3. *Dated*— 8th April 1922

THE MADRAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AND ITS FARMS

"At the head of all Science and Arts, at the head of all civilisation and progress, stands not Militarism, the science that kills, not Commerce that accummulates wealth, but Agriculture, the mother of all industries and maintainer of life."

The above words are pregnant with meaning, uttered by a great man of practical experience of life. It is the duty of every nation to strive its best to help such industry which maintains the very life of man. It is only in recent years that the attention of the Government and the public has been drawn towards the improvement of agriculture—once looked upon with contempt as if it were fit only for the ignorant and the illiterate.

The Government have opened many agricultural farms in important places to show to the public by practical means the great improvement that can be achieved by the improved methods of modern scientic agriculture. It has imported from foreign countries experts in cotton, sugar-cane, wheat and so on, and they have been doing immense research work in their own line of work. It has opened a college of agriculture, where students have been trained in modern agriculture and are sent up to various farms to put their knowledge into practice. In the short years of its existance, it has shown the remarkable improvement of finding out new varieties of cotton, cholam, sugar-cane, paddy, e.c., suitable for different soils and climatic conditions. It has found out various remedies to counteract the pest attack and fungus diseases. So much so that we find there has been splendid improvement in all branches of agriculture. The College at Coimbatore has been very popular and even the middle and higher class people have now been undergoing the course, and the slur cast upon agriculture as if it were fit only for the village brute will be heard no more. The research work done in the College is indeed very commendable and in a few years will it be too much to expect that India can boast of training students even of foreign countries?

In spite of its splendid work, there has been severely adverse criticism against this Department. I have often heard it said: "The Agriculture Department cannot justify its existence. Why has it not impressed upon the public rapid strides it has made in agricultural improvement?"

The reason for such remarks, in season and out of reason, is not far to seek. Some are indeed very reasonable and many are really unreasonable, for it is only the educated class either appreciates or criticises any public work, while a layman is a 'dumb driven creature," for he neither appreciates or criticises anything. But very few educated people have taken to agriculture and hence they do not or cannot understand the great improvement achieved by this Department. The illiterate raiyat is always at a snail-slow pace to follow the new methods of agriculture. I have often heard with a great surprise from illiterate raiyats that their lands would be taxed more if they follows better methods and obtained better crops, and it is also very amusing to hear from an educated Vakil, a relative of mine, that a sesame (teel) plant would grow to a big tree like a murgosa and a ladder should be used to bring down the seed.

Hence any criticism from such quarters, from those educated men who are not cultivators themselves, cannot but be one-sided, adverse and unreasonable.

But can it be said that no blame can be thrown on this Department and that its activities are based on sound practical principles? To some extent it must shoulder the responsibility for the large amount it has been spending on its experiments without sufficient returns, proportionate to its expenditure. No farm is self-supporting. Unless it can show to the public that there has been a decided saving in the management of farms; the net profits accruing from the improved methods including the cost of management, etc., are better than its neighbor raiyats' profits, these farms cannot hope to be popular with the general public and the raiyat.

Farm management is quite different from that of an ordinary office, where pen plays a greater part. It is no easy task to be a successful farm manager. Such a manager requires patience and perseverance and, above all, long experience, before he could be considered a master of a farm. It takes him a long time before he is able to understand the nature of the soil, climate and various other matters for successful management of a farm. The Nandyal and Hagiri farms are near to me and I have had the opportunity of paying visits often. The Nandyal agricultural farm is about 70 acres in extent of dry area and a few acres of wet land taken or leased by the Department. There is one manager, two assistant managers and a clerk. I find in the space of 2 years, something like three managers were transferred, not to speak of transfers of assistant managers. The Hagiri farm is about 300 acres in extent including dry and wet area. I hear that about six transfers were effected within a short period.

It is really a wonder how a farm can be managed with such transfers. The work of one manager cannot be understood or appreciated by another. One manager ploughs the land, another manures it, the third sows the seed, the fourth looks after it, the fifth reaps it and it is the sixth that accounts for the failure or success of a crop. So much so that the failure of any crop is attributed by the last manager to the bad work of his predecessors. A transfer in one farm means dislocation of many men in other farms. Hence in the interest and improvement and successful working of any farm, it is highly advisable that no transfers should be made unless any manager is proved totally unfit for the work, or there is something bad against him, prejudicial to the interest of the farm. The manager should have thorough knowledge of his farm and he should be allowed to show gradual improvement in all crops year after year. Then he will naturally have a great desire to see that lands are well ploughed and manured, and he would devote his whole time in the improvement of his farm. We have often seen that if land is leased out to a tenant for a year, he does not care to plough the land or manure it well. An agricultural servant engaged temporarily does not show any interest in the work. It is an experience of every raiyat that land should be leased out at least for three years. Otherwise he cannot expect any produce from the land. In the same way a raiyat tries his best to retain the services of an experienced man even paying him higher wages. In addition to this to induce him to devote more attention, the master pays him a small share in the produce. So also a farm, if it is to be successfully conducted, should follow the same principle. The managers and other staff should be paid 1/10 or 1/12 of the income got from the farm and good presents should be given for those who show decided improvement in their respective farms year after year.

A farm is not at all self-supporting, but much returns cannot be expected from experimental farms where experiments are conducted on a large scale. But there is always a limit to experiments. To show what "combustion" is, a science professors does not set fire to a house, but takes a piece of paper or wood and sets fire to it. Is it wise, then, to experiment upon seventy acres of Nandyal agricultural farm and 300 acres of Hagiri farm? When the success of any experiment cannot be assured, small plots of land should be set apart for experiments and all thoroughly successful experiments should be practised on a larger scale hoping for better yield. A farm should be not less than 200 acres in extent and in this 20 or 30 acres should be set apart for experiments only and the rest should be used for better-paying crops. So much so that a farm will not only be self-supporting, but can also do experiments.

I think last year I happened to go to Nandyal farm when the cotton crop, treated with sulphur, e.c. as manure, was on the field. It was all drying up for want of rain. I asked the manager why he had failed to irrigate the crop and get a bumper yield, though he could command

irrigation from the canal near by. He informed me that it was the object of the Agricultural Department to show to the raiyat that under such unfavorable circumstances, the farm produced better results by the improved methods of cultivation and manuring. This was indeed true to some extent, in as much as the crop withstood the drought for a few days longer, though with no better yield. But it puzzled me a great deal, for I failed to understand the wisdom of allowing a crop of 40 or 50 acres to dry up quite intentionally merely to show that a crop withstood the drought for a longer time. In such cases, a small area should have been set apart and the rest watered getting good returns therefrom. The knowledge gained by the experiment is indeed considerable, for it showed that scientific manuring and tilling would make a crop withstand drought for a longer period. But, is it to be learnt at so much sacrifice? It is like burning a hay-stack saying that nothing is lost as per experiment, "Nothing is lost when candle burns".

Hagiri farm is about 8 miles from Bellary town, connected by railway and a good road. The farm is indeed very extensive and is mostly of black cotton soil. The wet area may be about 20 acres, and the land is irrigated by the help of an oil engine.

There are quarters on the farm built for managers, assistants, demonstrators, coolies, etc. A fine bungalow stands on the farm viewing the Hagiri river closely. The Deputy and Assistant Directors have their Headquarters at Bellary. A big spacious building has been taken for rent for their offices. So considerable an amount is spent for their office establishment. I see no reason why Hagiri should not be made Headquarters for Deputy and Assistant Directors. They can have every convenience and comfort there and they will be in their own sphere of activity. By changing their Headquarters and office, they can show retrenchment in this direction also. They will be able to watch the progress of the farm and do lot of research work.

The Agricultural Department can also become very popular by arranging annual exhibitions at each farm so that raiyats have better facilities and attraction to learn more by sight-seeing. Prizes should be offered for the longest staple cotton, best cholam, a well-bred bull,—improved implements, etc. Such exhibitions will have marvellous effect even upon the ignorant and illiterate laymen. These should be arranged at a time when a raiyat can really see and learn something from farm cultivation. This should be decided by the respective farm managers, who should be allowed also to raise subscriptions from the interested raiyats and public.

In short, I request many of my brothers who have taken up Agri-Horticulture as their profession, and those who take deep interest in its improvement to pay visits to the farms near to them and give their constructive criticism, so that they may be improved and thus be useful to the public at large. I write this with the hope that my remarks are not misconstrued. The Hon. Minister is earnestly requested to study the present condition of the farms and do his best to bring about all round improvement.

P. V. Hanumantha Rao,

Agri-Horticulturist,

Panyam.

4

Dev. Dept.

D.O. No. 1143 III/22-2 d 10.6.22

Dear Mr. Sampson,

Mr. Nageswara Rao D.O. 1143 III/22-1 d 26-6-22 - transfer of Headquarters of the Dy. Collr. Dvs. agri III circle to Kurnool

Will you please let me know when a reply may be expected by post?

Yours sincerely

10.6.22

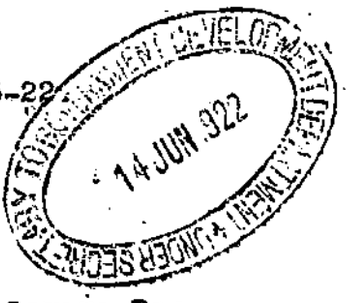
P3 N.7

DISPATCHED
10 JUN 1922

To Mr. Sampson Esq. C.I.E.
Ag. Dir. agri

D 1610 III 5
15.6.22

D.Dis. A-455-22. Director of Agriculture,
Madras, 12th June 1922.



Dear Mr. Nageswara Rao,

With reference to your D.O.No.1143-III/22-1 of 26th April 1922, I reply as follows:

2. No useful purpose would be served by making the Deputy Director of Agriculture's and the Assistant Director of Agriculture III circle's headquarters at Hagari. In the matter of expense this would mean building quarters for them, for their office establishment and a building for their offices. The only building on the place which it would be possible to utilise as quarters is the rest house which is there not only for the convenience of these officers but for that of other inspecting officers also. This consists of a verandah--a main hall with two small side-rooms and two bath rooms. In Bellary, houses are cheap and plentiful and will, I imagine, be more so in the future if and when the military establishment is further reduced.

3. In the matter of convenience this proposal is unsuitable. In the first place, the nearest post office is at Bellary. I am not sure whether telegrams are received and issued from the Railway station. Secondly both the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the Assistant Director of Agriculture are essentially touring officers. They have not only their agricultural stations to look after but are expected to know the agriculture of the circle and have also to inspect the work of their district staff.

4. The writer of this article seems to think that the Farm Manager has a free hand to do what he likes on a station, but our departmental manual which has been sent to Government

in another connection will show you what control the Deputy Director of Agriculture has over the work done on the farm and he it is who arranges how and what experiments are to be conducted and what the cropping and manuring is to be for the year. The cultivation sheets of which samples are also shown in this manual show how the expenditure on each field and on each experiment is accounted for.

5. The writer appears to suffer under the belief held by many simple villagers that Government agricultural stations are run with the idea of bringing in revenue. His remarks about saving 40-50 acres of cotton by giving an irrigation seems to me to confirm this. The only gain in doing this would have been in the increased value of the cotton produced. The loss might be very considerable to the district. Kurnool is essentially a dry district Its cotton crop is almost if not altogether rain fed. The crops on this farm are in the main new strains under trial and any cotton which cannot stand these dry weather conditions is consequently valueless to the district. If the crops had been irrigated no information could have been gained as to the drought resistant properties of these several strains.

6. As to the proposal to hold annual agricultural exhibitions on these stations, these would serve, in my opinion, no useful purpose and at a place like Hagari it is very doubtful if such would be attended even if held. It is a country of great distances, of large holdings and precarious seasons. Attending such exhibitions entails time and money which in the cultivation season, when such an exhibition would have to be held, would entail both time and money which the real farmers of the district could ill-afford.

A

Please see the suggestion (a) & (b) at p. 2 of Mr Hampton's reply [illegible] paras 2(B) & 2(C) respectively. Do you think Mr Sampson should be invited to make any remarks he may desire on the papers marked [illegible]

Mr Sampson's reply to the Publicity Officer with enquiries as to whether a suitable reply to their article on the [illegible] of Mr Sampson's visit [illegible]

This does not seem necessary [illegible] papers might be returned [illegible]

S 20.2.22

p.7 ante

Can [illegible] Think [illegible] might usefully be done at this time for Dept funds and comments from the Colls directly

Grant? If a little money were spent on periodical [illegible] at suitable times to attract interest might not obtain for the Dept some small but useful advertisement. Find out this week from talking up Cambridge & then write Secretary a cutting from Bombay or the Light of Asia

B

HMS 22.6.22

To U.S. 'A' of Secretary's note supra.

In connection with the discussions at a Budget meeting of the Board Sessions, it was urged as found the desirability of bringing improved methods of agriculture to the doors of ryots was urged urged urgent, and the Dir was asked to report on the desirability of holding informal conferences by agrl Officers in Villages and in Palaces the ryots. The suggestion in favour of holding such talks was ~~the reply of the Dir is awaited for~~ before the talks with agrl conferences may be arranged, ~~Please note~~, it is proposed to address the Dir again on the subject. This file has been separately submitted with draft for approval.

Topographic replies at Flag (N) Mr Lang & Mr Rao were not satisfied with this and on the file containing a

Para 'B' of Secy's note Supra. - Submitted that there was a Communication from the Publicity officer regarding Bombay System and it has been referred to the Dir for remarks On receipt of reply the question can be dealt with separately.

5/ [illegible]

P.B 29/6 RS 9/7

The newspaper cutting which forms the basis for this case deals with two matters - one is about fixing the Head Quarters of the Dy Dir III Circle at Hafar instead of at Bellary as at present and the second is about holding annual exhibitions at the farms. The Dir's report (Pp 5-7 ante) is not in favour of the former and as regards the

Extract from Official Memorandum No.746 III/22-1, dated the 25th May 1922 to the Director of Agriculture, Madras.

The Director of Agriculture is furnished with a copy of the debates on Motion No.601 made at the March meeting of the Legislative Council by M.R.Ry. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu Garu, M.L.C., . The discussions cover a large field and the outstanding points to ~~xx~~ which prominence was given are :--

* * * * *

(2) the necessity of a wider propaganda to carry the improvements to the ryots door; and

* * * * *

As regards propaganda, the Government recognise that the Department is keenly alive to this form of education in agriculture and has always placed this in the forefront of its programme. They do, however, think that it is desirable that the Department should be more'vocal' than it has been. Leaflets and bulletins should be multiplied and distributed on a very wide scale through the Agency of the Publicity Bureau. Conference with the ryots in the course of the officers' tours should frequently be held and demonstration on the ryots own lands should be undertaken for pushing through every possible improvement. Proceedings of the conferences held and an account of demonstrations undertaken should be communicated to the Press by the Officers in charge thereof. Much of the criticism directed against the Department would have been avoided if only the Department's work had been fully advertised and the public properly informed from time to time through the press and in the informal conferences of ryots of what exactly the departmental work and methods are.

* * *

Extract from the letter of the Director of Agriculture, No. D.Dis.D.651-22 dated the 6th June 1922 to the Secretary to the - Government of Madras,, Development Department..

Legislative Council Debate - Manure Problem - Agricultural Education - Information furnished.

* * * *

II. The necessity of a wider propaganda to carry improvements to the ryots doors:-- Leaflets are being distributed on a very wide scale by the Publicity Bureau. Besides this, each Deputy Director of Agriculture maintains a stock of leaflets suitable for issue to his circle on which his district staff indent for distribution to people within their spheres of work who are interested in the matter of the publication.

I have heard that subordinate district officers have sold these by weight for their own benefit to bazar merchants for wrapping up goods which they retail, in order to show that they are really disposing of these. Others again wish to carry around such large consignments of leaflets as to warrant their claiming bandi hire from contingencies when travelling from place to place. These are their dangers in trying to push the distribution of such leaflets which have to be guarded against.

Conferences with ryots and demonstration on ryots own land are among the main features of the work of the district staff. The conference is usually informal, however, and consists of talking over Agricultural matters in the evening when the out-door days work of the village is done. I consider that the educated public fail to a great extent to realize what is being done by our district staff in the villages. The real farmer stays at home and looks after his cultivation and does not come before the eye nor reach the ear of the educated public, who hear in the main those views of village life which are brought to them by litigious clients.

3. I have recently started sending to the Publicity Bureau a monthly abstract of the work of the Department written in a popular style and culled from the monthly reports of the district staff. This includes notes on agricultural research specially written by the expert staff at Coimbatore. Three of such monthly abstracts have now been sent to the Publicity Officer, and I enclose copies

of the first two issued. These are being sent by him to the Press and with the Publicity Officer, I have to-day called at the offices of the Madras Mail and Daily Express to arrange personally with the editors to have these punctually attended to in future.

* * *